

The China Mail.

Established February, 1845.

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HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1886.

日七十月二年戊丙

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON.—P. ALGAR, 11 & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, E. O. GROKES STREET & CO., 30, Cornhill, GORDON & GORKE, Ludgate Circus, E. O. BATES & CO., 37, Walbrook, E. O. SAMUEL DEACON & CO., 150 & 154, Newgate Street.

PARIS.—ADEPT PHILIPPE & CO., 36, Rue Lafayette, Paris.

NEW YORK.—ANDREW WIND, 21, Park Row.

AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.—GORDON & GORKE, Melbourne and Sydney.

SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally.—DEAN & BLACK, San Francisco.

SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.—SAYL & CO., Singapore. C. HIRSHORN & CO., Manila.

CHINA.—MOSCO, F. A. DE CRUZ, SANTO, QUEIROZ & CO., AMoy, WILSON, NICHOLLS & CO., Foochow, HEDGES & CO., Shanghai, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & WALSH, Yokohama, LANE, CRAWFORD & CO., and KELLY & CO.

Banks.

NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturdays, 10 to 1.

2.—Sum less than \$1, or more than \$250 at one time will not be received. No depositor may deposit more than \$2,000 in any one year.

3.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank may have \$100 or more of their credit available at their option transferred to the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest.

4.—Interest on the amount of 2½ per cent. per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balance.

5.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July.

6.—Correspondence as to the business of the Bank, if marked *On Hongkong Savings' Bank Business*, is forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—Withdrawals may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book are necessary.

For the
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, May 7, 1886. 754

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK
CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL.....\$2,000,000

PAID-UP.....\$500,000

REGISTERED OFFICE,
40, Threadneedle Street, London.

BRANCHES:

In India, China, Japan and the Colonies.

THE Bank acquires Money on Deposit, buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit, forwards Bills for Collection, and transacts Banking and Agency Business generally on terms to be had on application.

APPROVED CLAIMS on the ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, in Liquidation, or the Balance of such Claims, purchased

1.—An immediate Payment in the Cash of not less than 90% for the Cash.

2.—100% Payment being made in Fully paid Scrip of the Corporation's 6% per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, carrying interest from date of issue, and exchangeable for Stock Warrants of \$100 with Half-Yearly Interest Coupons attached, on the Scrip being made up to any even multiple of \$100.

Holders of this Stock incur no liability whatever.

H. A. HERBERT,
Manager,
Hongkong Branch.

Hongkong, February 15, 1886. 314

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL.....\$7,500,000

RESERVE FUND.....\$4,500,000

RESERVE FOR EQUALIZATION
OF DIVIDENDS.....\$3,500,000

RESERVE LIABILITY OF PRO-
PRIETORS.....\$7,500,000

COUPON OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman—A. McIVER, Esq.

Deputy Chairman—M. GROVE, Esq.

O. D. BOTTOMLEY, F. H. M. HUNTING-
TON, Esq.

H. L. DALEYTHORPE, Hon. W. KEWICK,
Esq.

H. HORRIS, Esq. Hon. F. D. SASSOON

CHIEF MANAGER:

Thomas JACKSON, Esq.

MANAGER:

EWEN CAMERON, Esq.

London BANKER—London and County
Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED:

On Current Deposit Account at the rate

of 3 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

For Fixed Deposits—

For 3 months, 3 per cent. per annum.

6 " 4 per cent. "

12 " 5 per cent. "

Local Bills Discounted.

Credits granted on approved Securities,

and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Draws granted on London, and the chief Commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, February 27, 1886. 403

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

DURING the Absence of our Mr. C. D. BOTTOMLEY, Mr. THOMAS EDMUND DAVIES is authorized to sign our Firm for Procuration.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.
Hongkong, March 16, 1886. 540

NOTICE.

I HAVE THIS DAY RE-ESTABLISHED myself in BUSINESS at this Port, under the Name of GEO. R. STEVENS & Co.

GEO. R. STEVENS,
Pedder's Street.
Hongkong, March 24, 1886. 604

NOTICE.

DURING the Absence of the Under-signed, Mr. JOHN WALTER has been appointed ACTING CHIEF MANAGER of the Corporation.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, March 20, 1886. 646

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T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, February 27, 1886. 403

Business Notices.

THE 'DEMON'

IS THE BEST

TENNIS BAT.

(+)

THE 'DEMON'

SOLD ONLY BY

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

THE 'DEMON.'

PRICE, - - - \$5.50 EACH.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ROBERT LANG & Co.,
QUEEN'S ROAD (OPPOSITE HONGKONG HOTEL).

Scotch Tweed Suit, \$15.00.

Over 100 patterns of Sty

FOR SALE.

MacEwen, Frickel & Co.
VICTORIA EXCHANGE,
QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

HAVE FOR SALE
THE FOLLOWING
STORES.

YORK HAMS.
ROLL BUTTER.
TOPCAN BUTTER.
French BUTTER.
Erf's COCOA.
VAN HOUTEN'S COCOA.
Picnic TONGUES.
MACKEREL in Oil Tins.
RAISINS and CURRANTS.
Crystallized FRUITS.
SAVORY & MOORE's New Infant FOOD.
BARNES & Co.'s JAMS.
Potted MEATS.
PATE DE FOIS GRAS.
Swiss MILK.

BORDEN'S
CONDENSED MILK.
COOKING STOVES.

KEROSINE LAMPS.
WINES, &c.

Gilbert's Sparkling SAUMUR, Pts. & Quis.
SACCONI's MANZANILLA.

SACCONI's Old Invalid PORT.
Old Bourbon WHISKY.

Bruton's Old Irish WHISKY.
Royal Glendee WHISKY.

MARSALA.

&c., &c., &c.

THE USUAL ASSORTMENT
OF
OILMAN'S STORES,
at the
Lowest Possible Prices
FOR CASH.

MacEwen, Frickel & Co.

Hongkong, February 10, 1886. 280

FOR SALE

THE GOODWILL and Valuable STOCK-IN-TRADE, FURNITURE, &c., &c., belonging to the Business of the late WILLIAM DOLAN, Sail-maker, Ship-chandler.

The Undersigned, the Executor of the Estate of the late WILLIAM DOLAN, deceased, will receive offers for this Valuable Property until noon on the Fifth day of April, 1886.

Terms—Cash on completion of the Sale, which shall be completed within one week after the acceptance by the Undersigned of offer.

W. H. RAY,
Executor of W. DOLAN's Estate.

Hongkong, March 25, 1886. 610

Intimations.

Griffith's
NEW VIEWS OF HONGKONG
ARE
NOW READY,
1, DUDDELL STREET.

Griffith & Co.,
MANUFACTURERS
OF THE
LONDON AERATED WATERS,
1, DUDDELL STREET,

Continue to Supply:

SOADA WATER, LEMONADE,
TONIC, GINGERADE,
SIZZLER, RASPBERRYADE,
SARSAPARILLA, &c., &c., &c.
At the same Moderate Charges.

Hongkong, June 9, 1885. 957

Jardine, Matheson & Co.
PIERS AND GODOWNS,
WEST POINT.

THESE are now in Working Order.—
STEAMERS are berthed at the Wharf, and CARGO RECEIVED and STORED at Chep Estate.

THE GODOWNS are two storied, dry, airy, and well suited for the STORAGE of SILK, COTTON and WOOLLEN PIECE GOODS, as well as GENERAL MERCERIADE.

Advances made on Cargo stored.

For Rates and further Particulars, apply to the MANAGER, or to

Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Hongkong, December 2, 1885. 2092

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP.

MODERATE FEES.

MR. WONG TAI-FONG,
Surgeon Dentist,
(FORMERLY ARTICLED APPRENTICE AND LAT-
TELLY ASSISTANT TO DR. ROGERS.)

A T the urgent request of his European and American patients and friends, has TAKEN THE OFFICE formerly occupied by DR. ROGERS,

No. 2, DUDDELL STREET.

CONSULTATION FREE.

Discount to invalids and families.
Sole Agents for
2, DUDDELL STREET
(Next to the New Oriental Bank.)

Hongkong, January 12, 1886. 66

Entertainments.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.

THE HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.
Have the honor to announce that
THE THIRD PERFORMANCE
OF THE SEASON,
will take place on

WEDNESDAY,
the 7th April, 1886, at 9 p.m.,
When will be produced

A COMEDY BY J. PALGRAVE SIMPSON,
entitled

'HEADS OR TAILS,'
AND
THE SUCCESSFUL FARCE
'CHISELLING.'

The proceeds of this Performance will be devoted to PUBLIC CHARITY.

Tickets (\$2 each) may be obtained from MRS. LANE, CRAWFORD & Co., on and after Friday, 2nd April, at 9 a.m.

H. M. THOMSETT,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, March 29, 1886. 637

To-day's Advertisements.

CHIARINI'S GRAND CIRCUS
AND
MENAGERIE
OF
TRAINED ANIMALS.

Will Exhibit at Hongkong,
commencing on or about
SATURDAY, April 3, 1886.

For Particulars see future Advertisements.

FRANK G. WILSON,
Advance Agent.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 663

RICHMOND TERRACE,
TO BE LET.

A HOUSE, cool in Summer, with FOUR Good Rooms—Dressing Room, Three Bath Rooms, and convenient Out Offices, in thorough order.

Apply to J. D. HUMPHREYS,
22, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 664

TO BE LET—FURNISHED.

A Very Comfortable HOUSE, with Six Rooms—Dressing Room, Library, Three Bath Rooms, convenient Out Offices, Tennis Courts, and Garden. For Nine months from May next.

Apply to J. D. HUMPHREYS,
22, Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 665

To-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL.

Manager, NIEL O'BRIEN.

Patron: HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, THE HON. W. H. MARSH, C.M.G.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF THE

ASCOTTE'S OPERA COMPANY.

ON

SATURDAY,

the 3rd April, 1886.

CONFIDENTIAL BENEFIT

to

MR. VERNON REID,

FIRST PRODUCTION OF SIR JULIUS BENEDECT'S BEAUTIFUL ROMANTIC OPERA,

IN THREE ACTS.

'The Lily of Killarney,'

or

'The Colleen Bawn.'

Hardress Cregan ... Mr. Vernon Reid.

Myles Na Cappelton ... Mrs. Watson.

Danny Mann ... Edward Farley.

Squire Corrigan ... Chas. A. Tyrrell.

Father Tom ... Niel O'Brien.

Bertie O'More ... Ernest Scott.

Ann Chub ... Miss Florence Seymour.

Mr. Cregan ... Carrie Hubert.

Sheehan ... Stella.

AND

Eily O'Connor (The) ... Miss Eva Davenport.

(Colleen Bawn) ...

Conductor, Signor M. A. VALENZA.

By kind permission of Colonel Foster and Officers, the Band of the 68th Regt. will play Appropriate Selections during the evening.

Doors open at 8.30. Overture at 9 precisely.

Box Plan at KELLY & WALSH'S (LIMITED),

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 662

FOR SHANGHAI.

The Steamship

Capt. R. Koenig, will be appointed for the above

Port TO-MORROW, the 2nd Instant, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SIEMSEN & Co.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 660

SHIRE LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR YOKOHAMA AND HIAGO.

The Steamship

WILKINSON, Commander, will be despatched for the above Ports on SATURDAY, the 3rd April, at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

ADAMSON, BELL & Co., Agents.

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 667

STEAM TO BOMBAY VIA STRAITS.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

KITTY will leave for the above

places on THURSDAY, the 8th Instant, at 3 p.m.

Apply to A. MCIVER,

Superintendent.

P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Office,

Hongkong, April 1, 1886. 661

Vessels Advertised as Loading.

To-day's Advertisements.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF VICTORIA GAOL FOR 1885.

The following report on the Gaol by General Gordon was laid on the table of the Legislative Council yesterday afternoon—

Gao Superintendent's Office, Hongkong, 27th Jan., 1886.

Colonial Secretary.—In forwarding the prescribed Annual Statistical Return of Victoria Gaol, I beg to submit at the same time, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, a few observations concerning the Gaol and its administration, which are but little adverted to in the Official Report.

2.—I assumed charge of the Victoria Gaol in the beginning of May last. My personal experience therefore only extends to eight months of the past year; and, if I venture to offer opinions and make suggestions as to desirable changes and reforms, I do so with diffidence, conscious of my limited experience of the criminal classes and prison administration in the Far East.

3.—In directing the administration of the Gaol in this Colony, it will hardly be disputed that Government cannot do better than to be guided in its general principles by English Prison experience, and to endeavour to attain the results arrived at in England. These results have of late years been marvellous, and are briefly but graphically described in Sir E. du Cane's account of Penal Servitude (London, 1882). A combination of deterrent and reformatory Prison discipline, matured by the experience of many years, has, in England, resulted in a diminution of crime truly astonishing. During the five years ending in 1859, the yearly average of sentenced Prisoners in England and Wales was—

Sentenced to penal servitude..... 2,380

Sentenced to imprisonment..... 12,360

Total..... 13,620

out of a population of over 19 millions. This number was by year reduced till in 1881 it amounted to

Sentenced to penal servitude..... 1,525

Sentenced to imprisonment..... 9,240

Total..... 10,765

while the population had increased from 19 millions to nearly 20 millions.

4.—Such splendid results can hardly be hoped for in this Colony; but Government can at least strive to approximate them. There are many causes operating in Hongkong which make both the deterrent and reformatory results of Prison discipline less efficacious than they are at home. Some are inherent in the situation and conditions of the Colony; but some are removable. The wealth and prosperity of Hongkong induce a large influx of Chinese and other foreign population amongst whom must be expected a fair proportion of the criminal classes. These latter, probably accustomed to the severity of the Canton and other Eastern prisons, must be agreeably surprised, and can hardly be deterred by the humane and gentle treatment, which, as a civilized and Christian nation, we extend to our prisoners.

5.—In the Gaol, as far as my observation goes, Chinese convicts are better fed, better clothed, and better lodged than free coolie labourers, and the labour exacted from them is less. The deterrent effects of imprisonment are therefore almost limited to loss of liberty and its accompanying penalties—a loss far more acutely felt by Western races than those we have to deal with here. Reformatory elements are greatly wanting here. Scholastic and religious instruction there is none for the Chinese prisoners (if we except a voluntary Christian service in the Chinese language on Sundays). Instruction in trades can, owing to limited accommodation, be extended to only a limited number, and the compulsory living in association is only likely to result in the moral corruption of many of the prisoners.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STAFF.

6.—The Gaol staff, besides the Wardens and Head Turnkeys, consist of 1st and 2nd class Turnkeys (all Europeans) and 1st and 2nd class Assistant Turnkeys (Europeans, coloured men, and natives). None of these have had previous training in prison discipline. They have all been trained in this Gaol. The European Officers are zealous, painstaking, and conscientious. The main tenance of prison discipline has altogether depended upon them; and, although it would be better to have a proportion of officers trained to the careful discipline of an English prison, the services of the European staff deserve in my opinion the greatest credit.

7.—I regret I cannot, with one or two notable exceptions, say the same for the coloured and native staff. At one time friends and familiar with prisoners, at other times harsh and exacting, almost always wanting in judgment and discretion, they are in my opinion responsible for much prison crime. Many of them have also proved to be dishonest, as far as they have trafficked with prisoners in tobacco, opium, etc., and have been open to bribery in conveying communications between prisoners and outside friends. In fact at the time I took over the Gaol, any prisoner, whose friends would provide the means, could procure tobacco, opium, letters or anything he wanted, through the instrumentality of coloured turnkeys. Of these turnkeys during the year 6 were invalidated, 5 reengaged, and 10 were dismissed; most of the latter for illicit dealing with prisoners, one of them having been tried and convicted in the Magistrate's Court. The vacancies so caused were mostly replaced by soldiers, His Excellency the Major General Commanding the Troops having kindly permitted soldiers from the Garrison to join the prison staff on probation. These men, if found suitable, purchased their discharge and permanently joined the prison staff. They proved most valuable. Their habits of discipline raised the tone of the subordinate staff. Instead of quarrelling and arguing with prisoners, like so many of the coloured staff, they gave their orders quietly and reported breaches of discipline without noise or alteration, and gradually improved the subordination and discipline of the convicts. The soldier turnkeys moreover are absolutely free from the slightest suspicion of trafficking with prisoners. Their presence in Gaol I consider a great gain to Government.

PRISON BUILDINGS.

8.—The Official Return shows that this Gaol contains 150 cells or wards, of which 49 only are separate cells. Last year there were only 46 separate cells, but 3 have been added during the year. The prison is greatly overcrowded. During the year the Government sanctioned the removal of the female prisoners to a house outside Victoria Gaol. This was carried into effect in October last, and placed at my disposal the late female ward with 8 large cells and a separate yard, which relieved to some extent the overcrowding. Yet this is but a very small relief. Long experience at home has proved that, to make prison punishment deterrent and reformatory, it is essential that prisoners should be kept in separate confinement. The established principle is that prisoners on conviction should for a fixed period be kept in separate confinement both day and night. This penal stage lasts in England for nine months. In the second stage convicts are employed at labour in association, but

stop and have their meals in a separate cell. It is quite impossible to carry out such a system in Victoria Gaol, with the very limited and unsuitable accommodation of the buildings, and I believe it has never been even approximately attempted, confinement in separate cells having in past times only been used for punishment. I have, however, endeavoured, as far as the limited accommodation allows, to follow the established principles, which I have carried out in the following manner. Prisoners sentenced to less than six months, I have, except in rare and special cases, entirely exempted from separate confinement, placing them at once in associated wards. Every prisoner sentenced to six months or more I cause to undergo a limited period of separate confinement. Such prisoners come in almost daily. Whenever the separate cells therefore are full, I examine the records of those occupying them, and, for the best conducted amongst them to associated wards to make room for new comers. This has to be done about once a week. Since I have had the female ward at my disposal I have used it as a sort of intermediate place of semi-separate confinement; four or five long sentences prisoners being confined in each cell there, and kept at work in separation from all other prisoners, having their own separate yard for exercise. Long sentence prisoners, on removal from separate cells, are now transferred to the late female ward, but those in there must in a short time be removed to the ordinary associated wards to make room for others. By this system I am able to give every prisoner, sentenced to six months or more, from two to three weeks separate confinement at the beginning of his sentence! A very poor result, but it is all that can be done, unless separate confinement were entirely removed for convicts sentenced to penal servitude.

9.—The limited space of the Gaol tells equally hardly on industrial labour. Mat making, chair and basket making, carpentering, and even most of the other work, having to be carried out in narrow and limited workrooms. There is only space for a single loom of coir mat-making and a single loom of grass mat-making, tailoring is carried out in a dark hall, shoe making is carried out in an ordinary cell. In fact there is no suitable workshop in the Gaol, nor space for one, except for the single industry of washing clothes. Were the prison provided with suitable workshops, it would be easy to discharge every long-sentence prisoner a trained and skilled workman at a remunerative trade; and there would be every hope that a large percentage of convicts would by these means be reclaimed from a life of crime. As it is, we can barely employ at and train to trade about one hundred prisoners.

10.—In short the Victoria Gaol is unsuited to the demands of modern civilization or even humanity; for it seems hardly humane to fail in adopting those measures which experience has shown to operate as deterrents to criminals and as encouragement to reform of life; it seems hardly humane to continue a prison system in which the unforced association of criminals is well known as tending to make the better class bad and the bad worse.

PRISONERS AND THEIR DISCIPLINE.

11.—After a short experience of eight months in charge of this Gaol, I venture to hazard an opinion that the Chinese convicts under my charge are as amenable to discipline, and disposed to be as well conducted, as those of any race I am acquainted with. This view, I must admit, is in appearance not supported by the statistics given in the Annual Return. It will be observed that in the year 1884, with a daily average number of 662 prisoners, 4,784 prison offences were reported. In 1885 with an average of 530 prisoners 6,473 prison offences were reported, giving an average of 12 prison offences a year for each prisoner; nor was the great bulk of these offences committed by a small number of habitual offenders, as is the case in England, where only about half the number of prisoners are annually punished for prison offences. On the last day of the year it was found that there were only 78 prisoners in Gaol who had been free of punishment for three months. If we compare this with the statistics of English prisons where in 1880-81 with an average number of 10,297 prisoners, only 5,861 prisoners were punished, committing 18,032 offences or less than two per annum per prisoner confined, we can hardly fail to draw the conclusion that the convicts of Hongkong are a peculiarly turbulent and insubordinate class. But this conclusion would be erroneous.

The large number of prison offences in Victoria Gaol appear to be due to special conditions, the chief of which are:—

1. The enforced association and crowding together of the prisoners at night, for want of separate sleeping cells for each prisoner.

2. The enforced crowding together of prisoners by day, when at work and at meals, want of space in the workshops and yards.

3. The want of training and general inefficiency of a number of the turnkeys, whose ignorance, misconduct and want of judgment have been the cause of much avoidable prison crime.

12.—An explanation will naturally be expected of the large increase of prison offences in 1885 as compared with 1884 from 4,784 to 6,473 or over 30 per cent. The number of prison offences reported during the past year have actually decreased all round with the exception of two kinds, viz., tailoring, and task of oakum short pick'd. The explanation of the increase in these two offences is as follows. On taking charge of the prison I found the Regulation requiring silk to be maintained was not strictly enforced, very noisy talkers at work being reported. In fact after the prisoners were locked up for the night, the outcome of conversation from the associated wards was perfectly audible in the neighbouring streets. I enforced the Regulation, detailing for some time extra turnkeys on night duty to enforce silence. This reduced the number of reports for 'talking' from 510 in 1884 to 2,132 in 1885, a number which however accounts for the total increase of reports in the year. I append a tabulated statement showing the monthly offences, under this head during the last two years. It is curious to note that silence seems more difficult to the prisoners than the quietness of the night.

13.—During 1885 they were reported 945 offences for short oakum pick'd and petty oakum thefts; the prisoners, crowded together in the working yard, frequently stealing each other's picked oakum. No offences were recorded under this head in 1884. The practice had been for the officer charged with weighing the oakum to report deficiencies on a separate paper, and these offences and their punishments were not recorded in the offence book. At these papers were not preserved, I am unable to make comparisons with the previous year. The practice appeared to me to be irregular. I directed all these offences to be entered in the offence book, thus increasing the two heads account for nearly half the prison offences of the year 1885 and for more than double the increase over previous year.

14.—The remaining prison offences consist of assaults and acts of insubordination, idleness and refusing to work, having tobacco or opium, quarrelling and fighting, stealing food, disorderly conduct and other miscellaneous offences. In all these there has, as compared with the previous year,

been a diminution in 1885. The number, however, is very large as compared with English prisons, owing chiefly to the great opportunities and temptations of imprisonment of the buildings, and I believe it has never been even approximately attempted, confinement in separate cells having in past times only been used for punishment.

15.—During the year 11 cases of insubordination towards and assaults on officers of the Gaol, were tried by the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice. Of these cases 8 offenders were awarded corporal punishment, and 3 solitary confinement.

16.—The cases of prisoners assaulting and fighting with each other were much more numerous. In 1884, 270 such offences were reported, in 1885, 204 were reported. Fighting these offenders were very numerous, I cause to be inflicted on the prisoners who aggravated the assault on each other would be tried. 13 such cases were accordingly brought to trial before the Superintendent and a Visiting Justice. In 9 cases corporal punishment was inflicted, in 3 cases solitary confinement; one case broke down for want of evidence. The result was satisfactory in diminishing this class of offence. I append a table showing the number of these offences during each month for the last two years. It will be observed that the monthly average during the first nine months of 1885 was 21 offences, which was reduced in the last quarter to a monthly average of 11.

17.—The most serious offence during the year was an assault made on the Superintendent on the 27th June, with a bludgeon by a prisoner under sentence of 18 months' imprisonment. He was tried and received corporal punishment. As a rule the appointed time. But, having found that the required security, and remitted the sentence, I would be every prospect of diminishing crime in, and consequent expense to, the Colony.

18.—I have visited the neighbouring prisons of Canton and Macao. In the former the prisoners are treated with a harshness and severity which we could not imitate, but which proves deterrent. In Macao I found the prison far less overcrowded than in the Gaol, over and over again, a few weeks after discharge. Its economy is such that if such criminals were sent to penal servitude for their second offence, such punishment would probably act as a deterrent (which short sentences do not), it would cost the Colony no more, and would save the community from many thefts and much vexation.

19.—The short sentences passed in associated wards are not very deterrent, I have found evidence. There are generally in Gaol from 20 to 30 prisoners of the criminal class, confined for short periods for want of finding security (generally only a few dollars) for good behaviour. These persons are placed in associated wards, comfortably lodged and fed, and have no work to do.

20.—As a rule they declare themselves unable to find the required security, and remain in the Gaol, over and over again, a few weeks after discharge.

21.—The short sentences passed in associated wards are not very deterrent, I have found evidence. There are generally in Gaol from 20 to 30 prisoners of the criminal class, confined for short periods for want of finding security (generally only a few dollars) for good behaviour. These persons are placed in associated wards, comfortably lodged and fed, and have no work to do.

22.—A chain gang of prisoners has been working during the year under the order of the Superintendent, on Public Works, and has generally consisted of about 90 men; though this number has lately been much reduced. The work of this gang has not given satisfaction. The officers in charge of the gang receive an extra allowance for this duty. The diet and clothing, etc., supplied to prisoners there, appear less liberal than in Victoria Gaol, though I think more in correspondence with the ordinary living of Chinese coolies. But we cannot, as a civilized and Christian people, treat our convicts otherwise than with humane attention to their health and comfort in food and clothing, etc. But at the same time it seems due to the community and to the prisoners themselves that, bound as we feel ourselves to treat convicts with a consideration and humanity which to the natives of these parts appears luxurious, we should also adopt those means which the experience of England has shown to suffice, for taming and reforming the worst of our criminal population; and imprisonment on the separate system is the first and mightiest of these agencies.

23.—I have recently had an opportunity of visiting the Prison at Singapore, and could not fail to observe how far Singapore is in advance of Hongkong in its treatment of criminals. In that Prison there are separate accommodations for 600 criminals (in Hongkong 49). The greater part of the Gaol consists of wards for trained English prisoners and liberty paid. The results, I understand, have exceeded the expectations of that Government in building their new prison. From the Singapore Prison report of 1884 it appears that for the last three years there has been a steady decrease in the number of convictions for grave offences, and it is specially noted that during the year 'four men only have been reconvicted, who had ever undergone a sentence of three years and upwards.'

24.—In the event of the building of a new Gaol being further delayed, I would request Government to take into consideration the advisability of reserving the Victoria Gaol for convicts and long sentence prisoners only, removing the short sentence prisoners to some other building. The Victoria Gaol could be made to accommodate the former class in separation at no very great expense for alterations.

25.—It would also, I think, tend to the repression of crime in Hongkong if prisoners who have earned a remission of sentence, or a day's pay, were allowed to be remitted to the Surveyor General's Department. The Surveyor General, considering the work done by these prisoners, could not fail to observe how far Singapore is in advance of Hongkong in its treatment of criminals. In that Prison there are separate accommodations for 600 criminals (in Hongkong 49). The greater part of the Gaol consists of wards for trained English prisoners and liberty paid. The results, I understand, have exceeded the expectations of that Government in building their new prison. From the Singapore Prison report of 1884 it appears that for the last three years there has been a steady decrease in the number of convictions for grave offences, and it is specially noted that during the year 'four men only have been reconvicted, who had ever undergone a sentence of three years and upwards.'

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27.—A proper account is now kept.

28.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

29.—Having now reported on those points of prison discipline and administration which appear of more prominent interest, I will further observe that the further observations or suggestions I would desire to offer centre round the construction of the new Gaol on the revised principle of separate sleeping accommodation for every prisoner and ample space for workshops and industrial labour. No deterrent or reformatory efforts can meet with appreciable success, in the absence of these necessary conditions. But, these conditions once granted, there would be every prospect of diminishing crime in, and consequent expense to, the Colony.

30.—I have visited the neighbouring prisons of Canton and Macao. In the former the prisoners are treated with a harshness and severity which we could not imitate, but which proves deterrent. In Macao I found the prison far less overcrowded than in the Gaol, over and over again, a few weeks after discharge.

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